Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).—I second it.

Motion was put and carried.

Mr. President.—The report should be made ready by the 15th of Dhanu. The Deputy President will be the Chairman.

Usually the practice here is on Government days after the Government business is passed to take up the non-official resolutions and only the last two days are fixed for the consideration of Bills of non-officials. So that there may be no danger of this Bill not going through the next sitting if the House agrees we will put this down in the agenda on Government day for the consideration of the House.

The House rose for lunch at 12-55 p. m. and re-assembled at 2-15 p. m. with the Deputy President (M. R. Ry. A. Sankara Menon Avl., B. A. & B. L.) in the Chair.

The Cochin Marumakkathayam Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—Mr. President, Sir, the Cochin Marumakkathayam Bill has been circulated among respectable members of communities and the printed copy of the opinions gathered, circulated among the Members of this House shows a feeling on the part of a large section of the communities affected by the Bill, though a measure like that is welcomed by a large section of the people. But even amongst that section which welcomes a measure of this sort, there seems to be some difference of opinion regarding certain vital provisions of the Bill. It is therefore necessary to further examine the Bill and, if necessary, to take evidence on this question, and therefore, I move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of (1) the Diwan Peishkar (2) Mr. Ikkanda Warriar (3) Mr. Ashtamurthi Namboodiripad (4) Mr. A Narayana Menon (5) Dr. A. R. Menon and (6) myself.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhanji*).—I second it.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).—I wish to make the position of Government clear. Government will not now oppose the motion to refer to a Select Committee. But in view of the diversity of opinion that has been expressed by various persons among whom the Bill was circulated, Government would postpone any indication of their attitude until after the report of the Select Committee is received, and will remain neutral in the meanwhile. I would also in this connec-

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tion like to point out that the present case illustrates the extreme usefulness of circulating such bills for public opinion and criticism. Government do hope that with the wealth of material now before them, the Select Committee will not find it necessary to go about the State to consult or record expert or entertained evidence on the bill.

Motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was put and carried.

Deputy President.—The Diwan Peishkar will be the Chairman and the Committee will report within three months.

The Cochin State Insurance Bill.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon *(Vyttila).*—I beg to introduce the Cochin State Insurance Bill. The utility of the Bill has been sufficiently explained in the statement of objects and reasons and I propose that the Bill may be referred to a Select Committee. I propose to name the Members, viz., the Finance Member, the Law Member, Mr. P. Govinda Menon and Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan and the Mover.

Mr. K. S. Manickam *(Irinjalakkuda).*—I second it.

Mr. P. V. Subramaia Ayyar *(Comptroller of Accounts).*—In these modern times, it is true, insurance is highly essential. The only point to be considered is whether in such a small State like this any scheme of insurance will be feasible or even self-supporting. Elsewhere it has been the cry that insurance companies find it difficult to pull on for nearly twenty years. Only in cases where a company of life insurance has been able to get on and continue after 25 years it can expect to make both ends meet. Every actuarial report of the Government of India has been insistently showing that many insurance companies have been a failure. The reason is plain, namely that all insurance companies are to be financed by capital accumulated from the premiums received by the companies. Such being the case, in the earliest stages of the life of the company, the amount of premium that will be received from year to year will usually be very small. During these days of low rate of interest on investments, even assuming that any company had been able to canvass a good array of policy holders, the income derived from such investments and the premiums obtainable will be adequate to run the Company. Apart from the reason, therefore, of the risk involved in introducing any life insurance company, there is the further argument at present that there are not times when a life insurance company could be thought of. It is true that Mysore, Travancore and other Indian States

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